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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hearts are steadfast toward You. Lead us safely to the refuge of Your choosing, for You desire to give us a future and a hope. Today give our Senators the power to do Your will as they realize more fully they are servants of heaven and stewards of Your mysteries. May faithfulness be the litmus test by which they evaluate each action. May they never be careless about their spiritual and moral growth as You make them Your instruments for achieving lasting peace and justice in troublesome times.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 266.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 266, S. 1846, a bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on this issue we have a bipartisan coalition that badly wants to get this done. So we are going to do everything we can to move forward. At this stage the Republicans have not cleared the proposed consent agreement. I have indicated to the Republican leader that later today I would ask that. But also, to stopgap, we have started a rule XIV procedure which in just a minute I will move to, and we will have a second reading so that, if we can't work any-

thing out on the consent agreement, we will tee this up so this will be the first vote we have when we get back after our recess.

Mr. McCONNELL. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Certainly.

Mr. McCONNELL. The majority leader is correct. There is substantial bipartisan support for the flood insurance bill. We are not in a position to clear it yet, but Senator ISAKSON, who has taken the lead on this issue on our side, is working with our Members. Hopefully, we will be able to figure out a way forward here in the not too distant future.

Mr. REID. On our side, Senator LANDRIEU has been persistent for months now. So she and Senator ISAKSON, I hope, can work something out so we can maybe work on this before we leave.

SCHEDULE

Mr. President, following my remarks, and those of the Republican leader, the time until noon will be equally divided and controlled between the two of us or our designees. At noon the Senate will begin consideration of H.J. Res. 106, which is the short-term continuing resolution. At 12:15 there will be a rollcall vote on the joint resolution. Just before coming here I was told the vote in the House will be between 3 and 5 o'clock this afternoon. So we should get that at a reasonable hour today.

We expect to begin consideration of the omnibus bill when it is received from the House, as I have indicated, later today.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1917
AND S. 1926

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The clerk read as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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